

~~SECRET~~



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

COASTAL DEFENSES CUBA

~~SECRET~~

R-22/72

JUNE 1972

COPY NO 135

3 PAGES

PIR-029/72

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

WARNING NOTICE
Sensitive Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved.

25X1

SECRET

R-22/72

ABSTRACT

1. At least 200 coastal defense bunkers have been identified in Cuba, as either complete or in various stages of construction. This report describes the construction and emplacement of coastal defense bunkers in Cuba, and provides a location map and annotated photographs.

INTRODUCTION

2. Old Head photography over Cuba has allowed observation of the continuous construction of coastal defense bunkers since late 1970 along certain sections of the Cuban coast. The bunkers are located east and west of Havana, Matanzas, Gibara, and Santiago de Cuba (Figure 1). All are similar in appearance and function. Santiago de Cuba will be the discussion area because it is representative of the various construction stages and use of terrain.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

3. Coastal defense bunkers in Cuba, such as those in the Santiago de Cuba area, are used for personnel and for automatic weapons emplacement, but they are of sufficient size to accommodate a field-artillery (FA) piece. However, in most cases the terrain surrounding the bunkers does not appear to be suitable for FA deployment, and since FA pieces are designed to be highly mobile, any such deployment would cause them to lose their mobility.

4. The bunkers are of a solid concrete construction and all are similar in appearance. They are polygonal in shape and are built in a mold pattern right at the selected location. Construction follows a set pattern (Figure 1). The area is first cleared of all vegetation. The site is then excavated and a wooden mold is constructed. The concrete is poured and allowed to set and harden. After hardening, the mold is removed, the bunker is covered with earth, and vegetation is replanted for camouflage.

5. The bunkers are placed at strategic defensive points such as the entrance to a bay channel (Figure 2); along a beach or shoreline which could serve as a location for an amphibious landing operation (Figure 3); and along a major road artery leading from the shore which would serve as an ingress route (Figure 4). Bunkers located on the beach itself face directly toward the water. Other bunkers are located a short distance from the shore on promontory points that dominate the area and offer a good line of fire.

REFERENCES

25X1

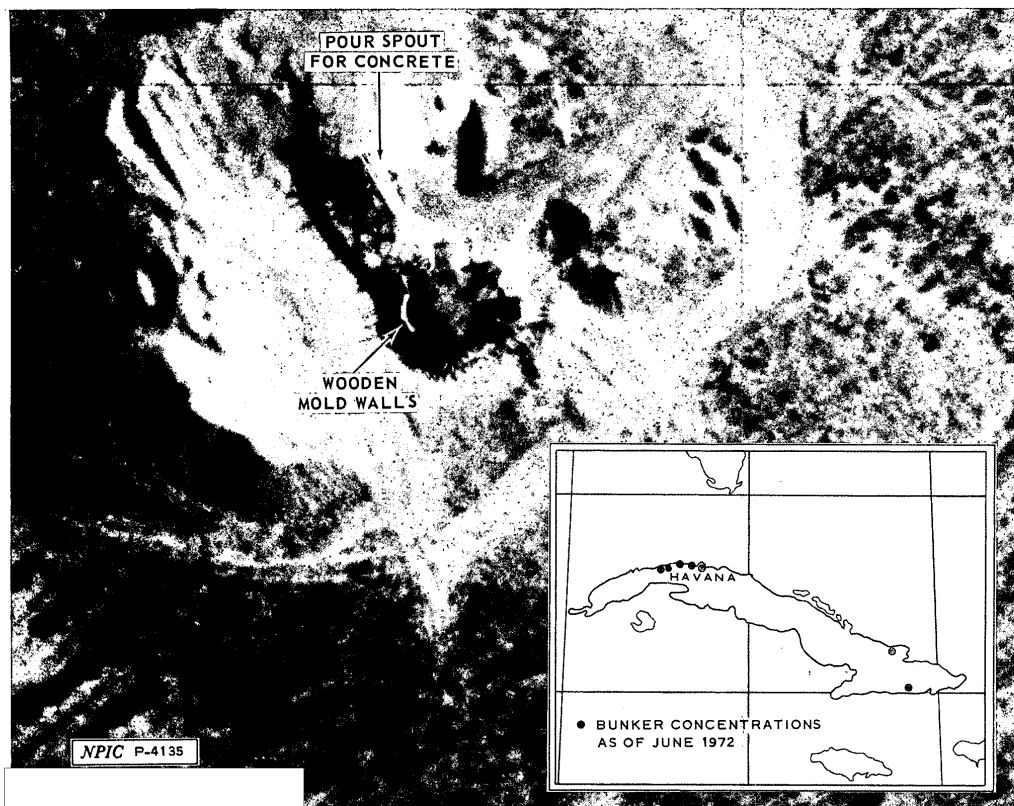
REQUIREMENT

NPIC/IEG/SGD/AB Project 251467

SECRET

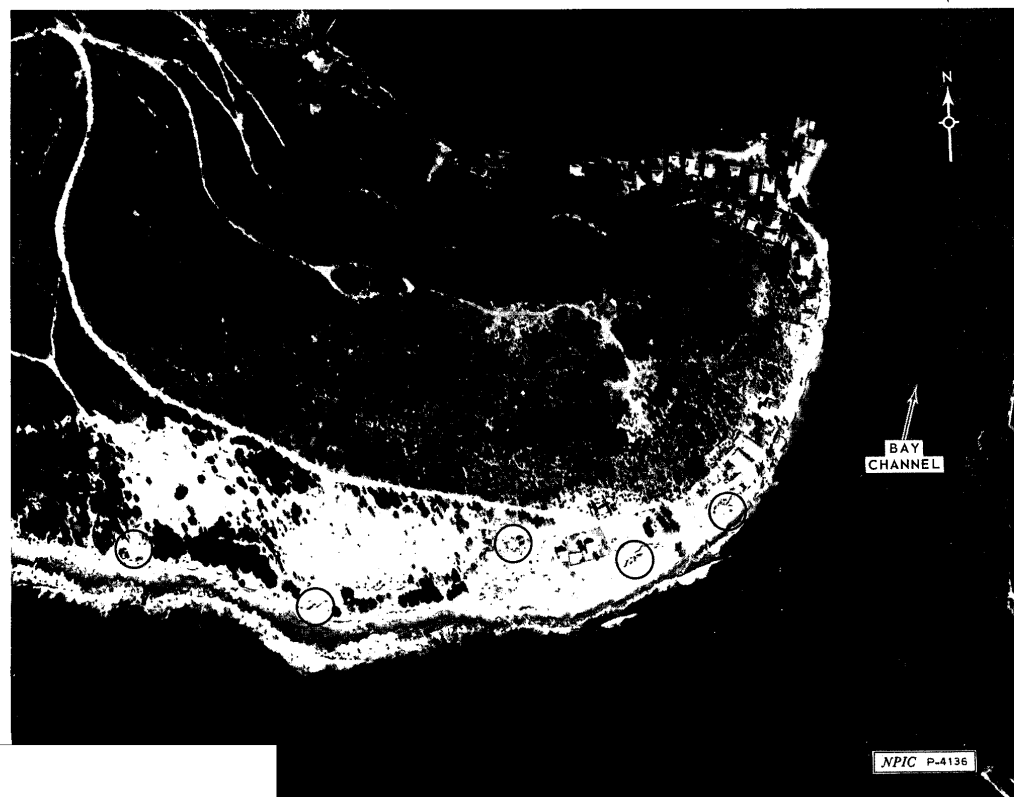
SECRET

R-22/72



25X1

FIGURE 1. COASTAL DEFENSE BUNKER UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SANTIAGO DE CUBA



25X1

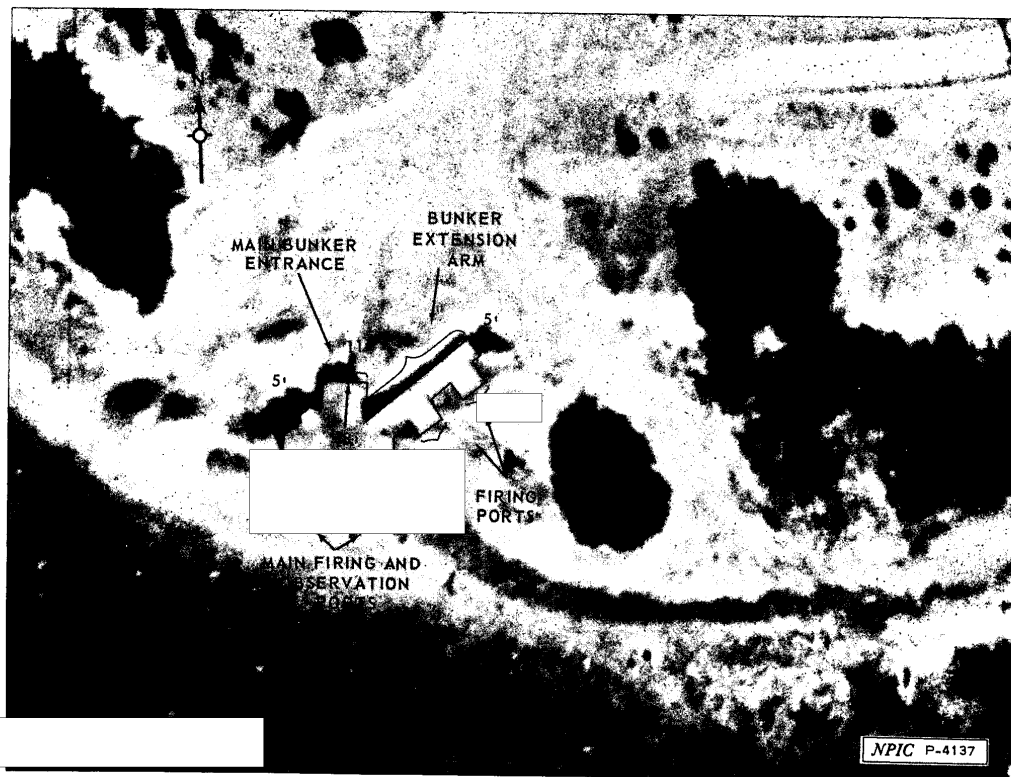
FIGURE 2. BUNKER ADJACENT TO CHANNEL ENTRANCE, SANTIAGO DE CUBA

- 2 -

SECRET

SECRET

R-22/72

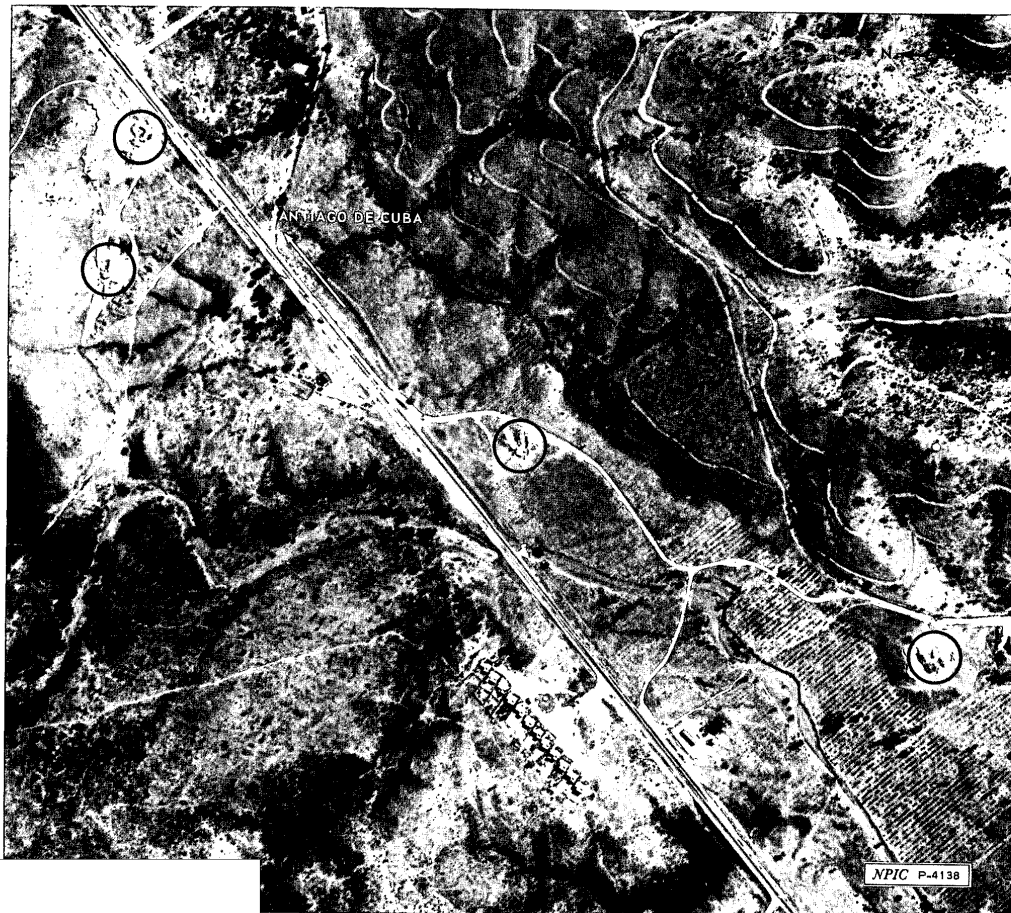


25X1

25X1

25X1

FIGURE 3. TYPICAL PERSONNEL AND AW COASTAL BUNKER, SANTIAGO DE CUBA



25X1

FIGURE 4. BUNKER SITUATED ALONG MAJOR ROAD ARTERY, TOWARD SANTIAGO DE CUBA

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET